

THE CRIMSON STAIN MYSTERY

Featuring Maurice Costello and Ethel Grandin
Novelized by ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE
Being Presented by the Consolidated Film Corporation

TWELFTH EPISODE THE RESTLESS SPIRIT

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING EPISODES.
Harold Stanley, who moves for a New York daily, is interested in the daughter of Dr. Montrose, who has spent his life perfecting a machine to rejuvenate humanity. Stanley has been working on the Crimson Stain Mystery. Fourteen murders have been committed, all in the same way—the victim robbed and strangled by this hands of superhuman power. Dr. Montrose had before this perfected and tried his machine on old patients. These people at first became super-human. Later he noticed that the developed abnormal powers, especially Pierre La Rue and Vandy Tones. Harold's father is numbered while visiting Dr. Montrose. Harold swears to track down the murderer. He takes over the Examiner and starts a campaign to unravel the mystery. La Rue plots to kill him. Bob Clayton, an artist friend, undertakes to aid Harold. The latter decides that Dr. Montrose is slandering the Crimson Stain leader.

BOB CLAYTON and Stanley were deep in an absorbingly interesting talk. The fact that they were three miles apart and that at least a million people were between them did not in any way interfere with the secrecy and audacity of their conference. This is so common a phenomenon—that one who employs a telephone—that it would have seemed the miracle of the ages a half century ago. At last Harold paused in the steady flow of instructions that he had been giving.

"I think that covers everything," he finished. "You're sure you understand?"

"Yes," came Bob's reply, tinged with not a little awe. "I understand. Harold, you're a wonder! But can we carry it through? Remember, we—"

"Carry it through?" repeated Stanley. "Of course we can. It's a matter of wit and pluck and iron nerve. And there's more danger in it for us than most men incur in a lifetime. But if we stand together we can carry it through. I'll stake my life on that."

"That's what we're going to do," Clayton replied. "It's a big risk, but it's for a big cause."

"That's the right spirit, old man," approved Stanley. "And now you have your instructions. Get to work at once on them. We can't waste time. Because time's the one thing we haven't got. This clue of mine is the strongest yet. And it will drive the Crimson Stain gang to earth. Take my word for that. Goodbye."

He hung up the receiver, got to his feet and unlocked the two doors of his private office in the Examiner Building. The time for planning was past. The time for action had arrived.

Dr. Montrose at about the same moment turned in from the street and moved fearfully up the walk toward his big Riverside house. His eyes were bloodshot, his face was drawn and his shoulders sagged. No stranger seeing him to-day for the first time could have doubted for an instant that the doctor was a prey to some ceaselessly gnawing terror and grief. Entering the house, Dr. Montrose stood for a moment at the foot of the

a nameless terror. La Rue, on the contrary, smiled suavely at his host. All at once the dread in Montrose's eyes was replaced by a steady gleam of resolution. The lines around his mouth hardened. His bearing was that of a man who had once and for all made up his mind.

He raised his arm in unconscious dramatic power. Pointing down the passageway behind the panel he spoke one word:

"Go!"

La Rue was not in the least impressed by word or gesture. He smiled—an ugly, yet almost pitying smile—and shook his head.

The smouldering wrath in Dr. Montrose's heart blazed forth into a fierce flame of indignation.

"Go, I say!" he shouted.

"Aren't you making a good deal of unnecessary noise, doctor?" asked

Pierre. "Have it waived up and let us come into your house by the front door instead. It will be far more convenient than the present hole-and-corner arrangement. And it will give us a glimpse of your pretty daughter now and then."

"You'll leave my daughter's name out of this!" hotly commanded Montrose. "It is a black insult to her. And now will you go?"

"No," replied La Rue, not at all ruffled by the other's wrath. "I won't as you very well know I would not when you told me to. Come, come, doctor! Don't behave like a sulky schoolboy. We owe everything to you. I most of all. And I don't forget it. But you are as much responsible for us as if you were our father and we were little children. You can't shirk your responsibility this way. You

drug from me," he declared with an iron firmness that impressed even Pierre La Rue. "Not one more treatment shall any of you have, you least of all. That is the truth upon my oath."

Pierre's face grew livid. The dread of losing the drug that made him the master crook of the century was too much for his self-control. "Then his eyes flaring suddenly with the Crimson Stain, he whipped out a knife and with a shriek leaped at the doctor."

Montrose sprang backward from the aperture, slamming shut the door behind him.

The whirling knife blade drove deep into the wood of the panel and struck there. La Rue hurled himself against the closed portal like a rabid wolf. But the stout wood resisted his furious charge. Then through the panel Montrose heard his yell:

"You'll rob us of the drug that is life itself to us! Very good! Then we shall rob you of your daughter who is more than life to you. She

produced a broad-brimmed soft hat, which he jammed down well over his eyes, and a great coat which concealed the lines of his figure. Then, opening the secret panel again, he crawled through the space, closed the panel behind him and hurried along the passageway in Pierre La Rue's wake. Several times in the next half hour the doctor caught sight of La Rue, though he could never quite catch up with him. Yet by his own knowledge of the man's habits he was able to trail Pierre to Tanner's apartment."

There, crouching in an alleyway below the open windows of a ground floor flat, he heard the mutter of voices, and from time to time he was able to get the drift of a sentence or two.

Night had fallen before Montrose left his post. And then he deserted it only to follow Pierre La Rue, who emerged from the house accompanied by Tanner and Kiel.

The three hailed a taxicab. Dr. Montrose was lucky enough to encounter another taxi. He boarded it and gave chase. Just as the day before, the taxi containing the man whom Montrose was trailing drew up in front of Algie's dance hall. La Rue and Tanner and Kiel got out and went into the place. He could hear later Montrose stealthily followed.

He was just in time to see the three pass into a private room at one end of the hall. The doctor made his way to a table near the door of this room. His hat pulled low over his brow, he sat down, ordered a drink (which he did not taste) and waited. He could hear nothing in the private room. But presently a waiter went thither, apparently in response to a touch of a bell. A second the door was open; Montrose could see the three men grouped at the table.

The waiter departed. Soon he returned, carrying two glasses of whiskey upon a tray. He tried the door. It was locked. Setting down the tray on the corner of the doctor's table, the waiter knocked at the door. While the waiter's back was turned, Montrose, with a lightning gesture, emptied his tiny flask of hydrocyanic acid into the two half-filled whiskey glasses.

He was barely in time, for the waiter picked up the tray as Tanner opened the door and carried it into the private room. The doctor would have felt less triumph had he known of a telephone conversation La Rue had just held in that room. Calling up the Montrose house he had asked anxiously if the doctor were at home. Clayton, who was calling on Florence, replied that Dr. Montrose was out. To which La Rue had answered:

"I'm sorry. I'm the father of that boy the doctor's daughter ran over. The poor little fellow seems to be hurt internally."

"Really?" exclaimed Bob. "Oh, I've had him taken to a little hospital at No. 999 East Blankth Street."

"No," replied La Rue, "but he keeps crying to see the pretty lady who was so nice to him to-day. Maybe he'd be happier if he could see her again. I wanted to ask the doctor if he could bring her down here."

"Florence?" called Bob. "Come to the phone, won't you? That poor little newsboy is dying. His father has called up to."

Florence interrupted by snatching the receiver from his hand.

"Oh, I'm so sorry, so sorry!" she said, her voice trembling as she spoke into the transmitter. "Is there anything at all I can do?"

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ARTIST AND SINGER WILL SOON BE BRIDE OF ALEXANDER F. DENNISTON.

Miss Narcissa Elinor Allen's engagement was announced Saturday, Nov. 11, to Alexander Fleming Denniston Jr., of Graham Court, Seventh Avenue and One Hundred and Six-

teenth Street, New York, at a luncheon given in her honor. Miss Allen is rated as an excellent artist, and she possesses an unusually fine soprano voice. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fumore Allen of the Garrick Apartments, in One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Street, and is the niece of Dr. J. Wilfred Allen of No. 42 Fifth Avenue, who is connected with the Mahanema Hospital.

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A dinner was given last night in Sherry's by Ferdinand F. Jelke of No. 74 Fifth Avenue. Afterward the party went to the Century Theatre. Mr. Jelke's guests included Mrs. Lyman B. Kendall, the Misses Genevieve Clendenin, Muriel Oakes, Edith Williams, Anne Scott and Helene Moffat, James Beck Jr., J. Theus Munds, James Hennen Le Gendre, Maury H. B. Paul, Ferdinand Jelke Jr., Martin H. Hoefler and Harry V. B. Darlington.

Miss Margaret Horton Benson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Sumner Benson, was married to John Noel Robinson yesterday in the First Presbyterian Church, Passaic, N. J. A reception was held at the Benson home. Miss Jane Benson was her sister's maid of honor and the bridesmaids were the Misses Marion Cleveland, Marjorie Woods, Lucy Emerson, Helen Emerson, Eugene H. Heck and Olive Benson. Alexander C. Robinson was his brother's best man, and the ushers were David Robinson Jr., Robert Cleveland, Russell Phipps, Arthur Jackson, Lawrence C. Noyes and John Tener.

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